

## Jordan, Vatican near full ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Vatican have exchanged memos of understanding paving the way for establishing full diplomatic relations between them at the level of ambassadors, according to the official spokesman of the foreign ministry. He said the two sides are currently holding intensive diplomatic talks on the issue, noting that soon the two sides will make an official declaration in this regard. The official spokesman of the Holy See has described the relations between Jordan and the Vatican as good. In a press conference in Vatican, he added that his country has good relations with several of the region's countries, pointing in particular to its relations with Jordan and emphasising that the Christian community in the Kingdom has distinguished privileges. Based on the two sides desire to have institutionalised ties, he said, both have started to negotiate the establishment of full diplomatic relations. He pointed that procedures taken in this regard are almost finished and will be declared soon.

Volume 18 Number 5501

AMMAN SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 1-2, 1994, RAGAB 19-20, 1414

Price: 150 Fls.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الأردنية للأنباء - الرأي

## Happy New Year

The Jordan Times will not be published on Sunday, Jan. 2, on account of the New Year holiday on Jan. 1. The next issue of the paper will appear on Monday, Jan. 3. The Jordan Times wishes its readers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

## Jordan, PLO revitalise coordination on specific issues

Arafat's two-hour talks with King clear way for action; future ties to be debated later

By Lamis K. Andoni

### King and Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to immediately start coordinating on specific issues of bilateral concern, effectively putting off a definition of the general framework of future relations, according to PLO officials.

The decision was taken at a two-hour meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported Friday.

The two leaders "reviewed a host of current Arab issues, the peace process and its latest developments" and ways of working towards a United Arab stance when they spoke by phone on Thursday night, Petra said.

The decision to focus on specific issues relevant to both sides meant that differences on what form of a relationship should govern Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the future will be brushed aside — in the immediate term — to pave

the way for coordination. While Jordan insists that the future relationship should be determined when Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are freed from Israeli occupation, the PLO has been arguing that any agreements in



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday greets Palestine leader Yasser Arafat (Photo by Yosef Al 'Allan)

any field with Jordan should be concluded on the basis of rela-

tions between two independent states.

But on Thursday, both sides, (Continued on page 5)

## PLO presents compromise proposal to end deadlock

By Lamis K. Andoni

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked for total control over crossing points to Jericho and Gaza and joint supervision of the other crossings with Israel as a compromise to break the deadlock over the implementation of Palestinian autonomy, PLO officials said on Friday.

The PLO demands were included in counter proposals that Palestinian negotiator Dr. Nabil Shaath has conveyed to the Israeli government. Israeli officials have already declared that the government could consider its original proposals, put forward in Cairo last week, but will not accept to scrap them.

The new Palestinian proposals according to PLO officials, are the following:

### The crossings

A. The Palestinian flag

should be hoisted on all entrances to crossings points and borders.

B. Two separate crossing points to Jericho and Gaza, at King Hussein Bridge and Rafah respectively, totally controlled by the Palestinians.

C. Palestinian participation over the other crossing points.

### detention camp" for Palestinian leadership.

### The Gaza Strip

A. The Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip will be confined to the boundaries of the settlements.

The Israeli proposals allow for Palestinian presence at one of two windows in one checking point around 500 metres inside the borders leaving the actual control in Israeli hands.

Furthermore, Palestinian travellers will have to be cleared by the Israeli window at the checkpoints before proceeding to the Palestinian window.

The Israeli plan also stipulates retaining control of "a three-metre-long security strip" between Jericho and the bridge. The Palestinian coun-

(Continued on page 4)

## Majali Cabinet seen capable of delivering on its promises

By Nermene Murad

AMMAN — The year 1993 began with little political farce in Jordan as the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was already running the affairs of the country smoothly for at least a year and most observers expected it to continue in place until the November national elections.

In mid-year, however, an unexpected change of government brought in Abdul Salam Majali, Jordan's chief negotiator to the Middle East peace talks, as head of an apolitical cabinet that was to oversee a controversial amendment to the Election Law and accelerate Jordan's involvement in the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In retrospect, most Jordanian observers say, the appointment of Dr. Majali signalled a marked swing from a government resigned to dealing with the requirements of democratisation and political accommodation to another that was mandated to clear the path for the fruits of the Middle East peace negotiations.

With the main work of any

government at this time basically cut out for it, mostly on the economic level, the major shift appeared to be in policy towards the Lower House of Parliament and the Middle East peace process and in commitment to the democratic progress in the country.

Sharif Zeid had gained a reputation as a conservative politician who felt a commitment to maintaining a stable relationship between the executive and legislative authorities. This was an especially important task for Sharif Zeid since he assumed the premiership post after Taher Masri was forced to resign as prime minister at the end of a tumultuous five months of tense relations between him and Islamist and conservative deputies in the Lower House.

Committed to his role as "moderator" in the relationship between the government and the Lower House, Sharif Zeid embarked on a policy of containment and accommodation that saw him in constant consultations with Islamists as well as leftists in the House.

Although he was criticised by the press for sometimes

allowing his government to be "contained by" rather than "containing" the opposition... Sharif Zeid's policy ensured smooth sailing for a number of necessary legislation, including the Political Parties Law and the Press and Publications Law.

He was also successful in relegating the debate over Jordan's involvement in peace negotiations to a back seat by detaching his government from the day-to-day affairs of the Washington negotiations.

Intervening only in issues that threaten to bring the whole debate back to the fore.

In fact, observers remember only one or two cases where the government of Sharif Zeid was seen to be actively involved in the talks. The first was when it thwarted an Israeli proposal to relegate the debate over Jordan's involvement in peace negotiations to a back seat by detaching his government from the day-to-day affairs of the Washington negotiations.

The second was when it thwarted an Israeli proposal to create a committee to study United Nations Resolution 242 and draft an interpretation, because it would put into doubt the strongest case of international legitimacy the Arabs had in their negotiations with Israel.

The Sharif Zeid government was seen also to have

(Continued on page 5)

## Israel-PLO accord — realities take hold

By Lamis K. Andoni

THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI accord, hailed as a historic landmark opening the way for Middle East peace when it was signed in Washington on Sept. 13, hit serious snags by the end of 1993, marring hopes for a speedy end to 27 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If anything, the issues that the two sides have agreed to postpone to the final status negotiations — borders and settlements — are again surfacing as the underlying obstacles to solving the dispute over control over crossing points, the area of Jericho and the extent and scope of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza that have impeded the implementation of Palestinian autonomy.

The stalemate in peace talks is expected to prompt the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reconsider its negotiating tactics, especially that there are obviously two different, if not contradictory, interpretations to the accord.

As Palestinian officials and analysts predict, the PLO will have to fall back on closer coordination with its Arab partners, particularly Jordan, to pre-empt what it views as Israeli attempts to corner the organisation and pressure it to accept all of its terms.

no reference to the resolution as a basis for any arrangements in the interim period.

The unconditional postponement of negotiations on settlements and borders and the fact that Resolution 242 cannot be invoked up until the final status negotiations have proved to be serious flaws, from the Palestinian viewpoint, hampering Palestinian demands for broader authorities for the Palestinian autonomy that could at least keep the door open for Palestinian statehood.

The stalemate in peace talks is expected to prompt the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reconsider its negotiating tactics, especially that there are obviously two different, if not contradictory, interpretations to the accord.

As Palestinian officials and analysts predict, the PLO will have to fall back on closer coordination with its Arab partners, particularly Jordan, to pre-empt what it views as Israeli attempts to corner the organisation and pressure it to accept all of its terms.

(Continued on page 4)

## 12th Parliament fastens belts for effective four-year term

By Ayman Al Safadi

AMMAN — By any serious standards, 1993 was a landmark in the history of parliamentary life in Jordan.

The year provided one of the most crucial tests for the country's nascent democracy. At many points, it looked as if the whole process was coming to an untimely halt. Political parties threatened to boycott the parliamentary elections as the government unilaterally changed the Election Law. Uncertainty threw its shadow over the polls as a decision to postpone them was, reportedly, taken and then reversed.

Towards the end of the year, however, the gloomy picture started to crack. Faith in Jordan's commitment to its "controlled" democracy slowly replaced much of the fear and mistrust in the willingness to strengthen the democratic process that was launched four years ago with much fanfare and great expectations. Democracy passed the test. But it did so with a humble score.

The year began with the 11th Parliament continuing its business as usual. In Janu-

ary, it passed the 1993 budget but only after subjecting the government to severe scrutiny and criticism.

Before it ended its last regular session on March 31, the Lower House of Parliament approved a number of legislations for some of which it won praise and for others blame.

The anti-corruption law and the teachers' union draft law met a popular demand that promised better defined punishment for abusers of public office and resources and a fulfilment of the right to organise for one of society's largest sectors.

But the Press and Publications Law and a legislation on sports and social clubs were received with disappointment and disapproval.

The Press and Publications Law did not allow for the expected level of freedom of speech and expression. It left the government with too much power, the press with too many restrictions. In the view of many, the controls that deputies put on the freedom of expression were stricter than those originally proposed by the executive.

Many people saw the pas-

sing of a law that forces segregation of sexes; at a recreational club as a testimony of the weakness of the secular movement in Jordan.

The endorsement of the law by some deputies who claimed to advocate a liberal social agenda reflected their unwillingness to indulge in religious controversies.

It was only after the 11th Parliament finished its term that fears for the continuation of the democratisation process appeared.

In April, the idea of amending the Election Law first surfaced. Deputies opposed the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral system. If the change was imminent, they argued, the House should be recalled into an extraordinary session to debate and approve it.

But such calls went unheeded. The government promised a national dialogue through which representatives of all shades in the political spectrum would draft a new modern election law acceptable to all.

The government claims

(Continued on page 5)

## 1993 — a significant year in Jordan's history

By Sa'eda Kilani

AMMAN — Two major events characterised 1993 for Jordan. The first was the Sept. 14 signing in Washington of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace talks and the second was the election of Jordan's 12th Parliament.

Both events will continue to have their effect on the country during 1994.

The past year also witnessed a decline in the strength of Islamists in Parliament and a boost in women's status.

The Islamists lost six seats in the Lower House of Parliament while women won one seat in the House, one in the Senate and one in the cabinet.

During 1994, a great deal of progress is expected within the context of peace. Parliament, at first dismissed as submissive, is expected to enliven debate over the country's external and internal affairs.

The following is a chronology of major events pertaining to Jordan in 1993:

January: 6: The House endorses 1993 budget despite deep criticism from a majority of the

## Jordan and the peace process — rules of the game have changed

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — Change was the only constant in Jordan in 1993. More of that is predicted for 1994.

The regional and international winds of change kept blowing on Jordan in 1993, long after the end of the Gulf crisis, whose repercussions continue to be felt today. The euphoria of the Middle East peace process, launched in October 1991 in Spain, appeared to die down during the first three quarters of the year; then came the surprise announcement of a Palestinian-Israeli breakthrough in Oslo in August.

The first half of the year saw Jordan attending several rounds of negotiations with Israel focusing on a draft agenda outlining the principles for a peace agreement.

The other Arab parties in the peace process — Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — were also, over 11 rounds of talks in Washington, making little visible progress in their negotiations with Israel. It was made clear as far back as late 1992 that Jordan was holding back progress in its

negotiations until after the Palestinian-Israeli track made tangible progress. To underline his commitment to the peace process, King Hussein appointed chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Majali as prime minister in late May and entrusted him with the task of supervising parliamentary elections in November.

During the first half of the year, the PLO, despite a commitment to coordinate moves with its Arab partners, was apparently making progress in secret talks with Israel in several European capitals. These talks culminated in an agreement on Aug. 19 in Oslo, Norway, on a declaration of principles defining the framework for interim self-rule in the occupied territories, beginning with the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

As the implications of the Israel-PLO deal for Jordan began to be recognised, raising fears inside the Kingdom, the King made hints that he may postpone the general elections scheduled for Nov. 8 until after the implementation of the deal. The King

had been reached in its broad outline (with some minor changes introduced later) as early as October 1992.

As the implications of the Israel-PLO deal for Jordan began to be recognised, raising fears inside the Kingdom, the King made hints that he may postpone the general elections scheduled for Nov. 8 until after the implementation of the deal. The King

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 5)



Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin (right) and his Vatican counterpart Monsignor

Claudio Celli at the signing Thursday of an agreement on mutual recognition between the Vatican and Israel (AFP photo)

## Israel, Vatican sign mutual recognition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and the Vatican put aside their disputes over Jerusalem's status to sign an historic agreement on mutual recognition and open a new chapter overturning traditionally antagonistic Jewish Christian relations.

The accord is widely expected to lead to a visit to the Holy Land by Pope John Paul, possibly in 1994. It would be the first such papal pilgrimage in 30 years.

"Behind the agreement, there are thousands of years of history full of hatred, of fear and ignorance with a few islands of understanding, of cooperation and of dialogue," Israel's deputy foreign minister, Yossi Beilin, said at Thursday's signing in occupied Jerusalem.

Full ambassadors will be named and embassies opened. Subcommittees work out details and the Israeli government ratifies the accord. It said ambassadors would be appointed within four months.

For the first time after the Jewish state was established, moves towards Arab-Israeli peace offered the Vatican and Israel a unique opportunity to forge an accord and put the issue of Jerusalem on the back burner.

Negotiators from the two sides concentrated on bilateral matters in the 15-article agreement, leaving the status of the city, holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims, to be resolved in Middle East peace talks.

"Forty-five years of refusal have now been replaced by political pragmatism," said the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

In the accord, the two sides recognised the unique nature and significance of the Holy Land to them and to the rest of the world. They also committed themselves to fighting anti-Semitism, racism and religious intolerance around the world.

Monsignor Claudio Celli, Vatican under-secretary for foreign relations who signed for the Vatican, said he hoped the Holy See would now play a bigger role in the peace talks and any future negotiations on Jerusalem.

He also repeated that the Vatican still wanted Jerusalem to be protected by an internationally-guaranteed special statute.

"We need... an umbrella that can protect the peculiarity of this Holy City, an international warranty in order to protect, to save, to recognise the (uniqueness) of the city for the three monotheistic religions," Mr. Celli told a news conference.

The Vatican backs the creation of a Palestinian state and

Mr. Celli was due to meet Palestinians on Friday.

The foundations of the Israel-Vatican pact were laid in 1965 when the second Vatican council repudiated the church's previous doctrine of collective Jewish guilt for Jesus' death 2,000 years ago.

Following are excerpts from the "fundamental agreement between the Holy See and the state of Israel."

### Preamble

Cites the "unique nature of the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people, and of the historic process of reconciliation and growth in mutual understanding and friendship between Catholic and Jews."

"The Holy See and the state of Israel are committed to appropriate cooperation in combatting all forms of anti-Semitism and all kinds of racism and of religious intolerance, and in promoting mutual understanding among nations, tolerance among communities and respect for human life and dignity."

The Holy See takes this occasion to reiterate its condemnation of hatred, persecution, and all other manifestations of anti-Semitism directed against the Jewish people and individual Jews anywhere, anytime and by anyone. In particular, the Holy See deplores attacks on Jews and desecration of Jewish synagogues and cemeteries, acts which offend the memory of the victims of the holocaust, especially when they occur in the same places which witnessed it."

The state of Israel agrees with the Holy See on the obligation of continuing respect for and protection of the character proper to Catholic sacred places, such as churches, monasteries, convents, cemeteries and their like."

"The Holy See and the state

of Israel recognise that both have an interest in favouring Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land."

"The Holy See and the state of Israel will negotiate in good faith a comprehensive agreement, containing solutions acceptable to both parties, on unclear, unsettled and disputed issues, concerning property, economic and fiscal matters relating to the Catholic Church generally, or to specific Catholic communities or institutions."

"Following the entry into force and immediately upon the beginning of the implementation of the present fundamental agreement, the Holy See and the state of Israel will establish full diplomatic relations at the level of apostolic nunciature, on the part of the Holy See and embassy, on the part of the state of Israel."

### Priority of Pope

Pope John Paul II has stood in a synagogue and called Jews and Christians "friends and brethren." He has denounced anti-Semitism and toured sites of Nazi atrocities in his native Poland.

But there also have been moments of sharp anger from Jews, including the Pope's 1982 Vatican audience with Yasser Arafat and his reference to abortion as a "holocaust."

The differences, however, have narrowed significantly in recent years. The Pope had strongly pushed the idea of diplomatic ties as an important step in the process of Roman Catholic-Jewish rapprochement begun with the 1962-65 second Vatican Council, which called for a dialogue between the two faiths.

"This Pope has made Catholic-Jewish relations an integral part of his teaching and his ministry," said Rabbi James Rudin

"The Holy See and the state

of Israel recognise that both have an interest in favouring Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land."

"The Holy See and the state

### PRAYER TIMES

For

Sunday

Uthra

Asr

Maghrib

Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel 01-377-20

Assemblies of God Church, Tel 01-377-20

St. George Church Tel 01-324-96

Church of the Annunciation Tel 01-377-20

PROGRAMME TWO

12:30 Les Amis de Dieu, Tel 01-377-20

12:45 The Family, Tel 01-377-20

12:50 News in English, Tel 01-377-20

12:55 News in Arabic, Tel 01-377-20

12:55 The Family Boys, Tel 01-377-20

12:55 The Talk Show, Tel 01-377-20

12:55 The Campbells, News in English, Tel 01-377-20

12:55 The Big Breakfast, Tel 01-377-20

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

12:55

## Water found in Wadi Qattar

# Amman mayor announces plans for municipality building in Ras Al Ein

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Mamduh Abbadi Wednesday announced that workers involved in paving the ground for the establishment of a national park in Wadi Qattar, near Abu Alanda district, have struck a new spring sufficient for irrigating the trees for a long time.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times Wednesday that with the discovery of the spring, there will be no more need to purchase water, through water tanks to fill the water towers to feed the drip irrigation system installed in the grounds of the park.

He also announced that the municipality was now preparing designs for a new municipality at Ras Al Ein area. He added that the complex would include scores of buildings to be set up on 108 dunums of land.

Dr. Abbadi said that some of the land for the municipality was appropriated from the local residents whose homes will be demolished in the course of structuring the complex.

The complex on which work is expected to commence in 1994, would include administration buildings as well as



Mayor Mamduh Abbadi answering a question from a journalist during a press conference Thursday

separate buildings to serve as a modern library, multi-purpose halls and buildings for other facilities and utilities.

Dr. Abbadi said that the old municipality building, near the Roman Amphitheatre, would not be used once the new one

becomes operational.

He noted that the location of the complex was carefully chosen as the site lies in a central area accessible to residents in various districts. Furthermore, the municipality owns 80 per cent of the site

which has not been properly utilised.

Referring to the residents of the appropriated land and homes, he said it was inhabited by 48 families, or about 272 citizens, who would receive fair compensation.

In order to cover various world events, Radio Jordan has appointed correspondents in Cairo, Tunis, Beirut, London, Washington, Paris and Geneva in addition to the local correspondents around the Kingdom, said Mr. Qudah.

He said that new equipment had been bought specifically for the purpose of boosting the broadcasting services.

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Ensour Friday said the Amman-Jerash road will be opened for traffic in March, as was originally scheduled. During an inspection tour aimed at assessing progress of work on the road, Dr. Ensour stressed that work was proceeding well and that the road would be completed within 60 working days.

Dr. Ensour attributed the delay in completing work on time to landslides which, he said, had obstructed progress of work which started in 1988. The minister was accompanied by Irbid members of the Lower House of Parliament.

The deputies expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the road and called on the government to construct an alternative road to be used in case any landslides occur before the road opens to traffic.

Irbid Governor Fayed Abbadi said work on this road had progressed very well and was beyond expectations given the nature of the land where landslides occurred.

Jerash Mayor Ali Qokara stressed the importance of this road, and said it was the artery feeding Jerash. He called for connecting Jerash with the new roads so that Jerash would not be turned into an empty city because the new road does not go through it.

He stressed that the diversion of traffic from Jerash over the past five years have caused financial and moral damage to the tourism sector in Jerash.

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of Jordan Television and Radio Ibrahim Shahzadah and Fayed Al Qudah will be serving as deputy directors general of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTC) as of Jan. 1, according to the new regulation for the corporation's technical staff, which takes effect Saturday. Under the new regulation, three departments and three directorates have been created and will be functional as of today.

The three departments include Jordan Arab Satellite Channel with Zeid Fariz as its director, the engineering affairs department with Ali Abu Kweik as its director and the administrative and financial department with Hani Farraj as its director.

Each of these three directors will also serve as assistant to the director general of the corporation.

The three new directorates include the staff training and development directorate with Mahmoud Al Shahid as its director, the commercial advertising and marketing directorate with Walid Sinawi as its director, and the international relations department with Fatima Masi as its director.

The new regulation provided for the establishment of a planning and coordination committee, headed by the director general of the corporation.

The committee groups the two deputy directors as well as directors of the departments and directorates.

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the 21st Conference of the Federation of the Arab News Agencies (FANA) general assembly which will open in Damascus Monday. The directors of the Arab news agencies will discuss in the two-day conference several technical, administrative and financial issues as well as a report on the activities of the general assembly. They will also discuss recommendations taken by the federations' engineers committee on linking all Arab news agencies with each other by satellites. Jordan will be represented at the conference by Abdullah Utoum, director general of the Jordan News agency, Petra.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity would be 224,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Indian Company for Chemicals, an affiliate of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Southern Industries Corporation Limited, a leading Indian company, are establishing a phosphate acid factory in the free industrial zone in Shidieh in South Jordan.

The company's sources said the factory's annual production capacity

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1971

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## On ties and Jerusalem

THE AGREEMENT between Israeli and the Vatican to establish political ties, which was signed in Jerusalem on Thursday, is most unfortunate since it amounts to recognition by the Holy See of Israel's sovereignty over the Holy City. In article 2 of the agreement, Israel, without mention of Jerusalem, "recognises the Catholic Church's right to practise its religious, moral, educational, and charitable activities....," while the "church recognises the state's right to practise its authority." The fact that the negotiations leading to the accord were conducted in Jerusalem and the agreement itself was signed in the city can only reinforce that conclusion.

We understand that the Vatican had come under immense pressure to conclude such an agreement with Israel by constantly having been reminded of all the atrocities that were committed against the Jews in Europe over the centuries, with the blessing of the church on many occasions. True, the Vatican is certainly not a superpower in the physical sense of the word. Yet, being the spiritual leader of 1,000 million Catholic faithfuls, the Pope, in whatever action he takes, serves as a guiding example for those millions.

It is therefore disappointing to see the Vatican turning a blind eye to Israel's description of the occupied Arab lands as "disputed territories." Equally disappointing is to witness the Vatican's deputy foreign minister, Monsignor Claudio Celli, sign the document of mutual recognition with his Israeli counterpart Yossi Beilin in Jerusalem.

The Vatican cannot claim, as it did when it signed the agreement Thursday, a stranger to all temporal conflicts, because it is not. In the past decade and during Pope John Paul's reign, the Vatican was party to almost every single "temporal conflict" in Europe, Latin America and Africa. It chose to oppose and fight communism in Eastern Europe. It sided with the U.S. in fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. And Pope John Paul himself did not hesitate to scold his Sudanese hosts last year for the brutal war in south Sudan.

Muslim and Christian Arabs are disheartened therefore to see the Vatican take a step towards legitimising Israel's occupation and annexation of the city and the Holy See's backtracking in commitment pledged to Arabs and Palestinians. This move at this crucial time will only strengthen the hands of Israel and weaken the Palestinian cause at a time where every genuine effort should be exerted to solve the Middle East peace conflict justly and honourably.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

UNDER THE title "Negotiations return to square one," Al Dostour said Friday it is clear now that the Oslo deal, between Israel and the PLO, has failed, as it is not being implemented. The paper accused the Rabin government of being responsible for the failure due to its adamant position and refusal to carry out the deal which would lead to a Palestinian state in five years. The PLO leaders who signed the deal in Washington on Sept. 13, have refused Israel's exploiting the deal's provisions, thus rendering the contents of the agreement meaningless, added the paper. In the light of the failed meetings held Oslo, Paris and Cairo, one can only observe the intransigent Israeli position and its interests which smell of conspiracy against the Oslo deal as a result of pressure of the Jewish settlers and other parties, said the paper. It is doubtless, continued the paper, that the negotiations over the Middle East crisis will meet the same fate and will render the area prone to further violence and tension and will return the parties involved back to square one.

COMMENTING ON THE PLO leader's visit to Amman Friday, and his talks with King Hussein, Sawt Al Shabab said that the meeting was intended to bolster inter-Arab coordination, in the face of Israel's intransigent position vis-a-vis the peace negotiations. Failure to coordinate their positions and their adamant demands over the return of Arab land occupied since 1967 would reduce the Arabs' and Palestinians' chance to regain their usurped territories, said the paper. It said that therefore Mr. Arafat's meeting with the King, and earlier with the heads of Egypt and Syria, should be regarded as part of the ongoing efforts on the part of Arab leaders towards reaching a common stand and ensuring a stronger Arab negotiating power, added the paper. Warning against failure to coordinate Arab stands, the paper said. That the Israelis would seize the chance to further cause divisions among the Arab governments and open the door wide for the Rabin government to further practise its intransigent position at the negotiating table. It is only through lack of pan-Arab solidarity that Israel aims to seize hegemony on the Arab World, warned the paper.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Putting the Arab and national house in order is a priority in New Year

By Dr. Musa Keilani

JORDAN and the rest of the Middle East region enter the New Year with hopes high that an end to decades of conflict and suffering of its people could be at hand. For once there is tangible movement in efforts to find an equitable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and we all are hopeful that the negotiations with Israel would produce a settlement based on the legitimate political, territorial, economic, social, cultural and human rights of all peoples in the region.

We have lived through the agony of seeing our people kicked out of homes, locked up without any protection of justice and law, chased and attacked in the region and beyond, denied the slightest trace of their legitimate rights, bombed out and left to the mercy of natural elements and instincts for survival, and the "strategic" economic and political ambitions of foreign powers forced down our throats. This has been our experience for decades, and what made it worse, was the disarray among ourselves and the lack of vision that characterised collective Arab action to resist and reverse the course of events.

But then lamenting over shortcomings of the past does not get us anywhere. We in Jordan have always taken pride in our pragmatism under the guidance of our leadership, and have survived the test of time through some of the most critical moments in the history of any country, and there is little doubt that we all have learnt a lot from past mistakes, our mistakes as well as others, not to repeat them and go through the cycle of having to fight against all odds despite being armed with honourable stands and commitment.

As we enter the New Year with hopes for a better future, the first priority facing us is putting the Arab and national order. I do not agree with the notion of some that the "Arab Order" is past restoration or that there was no "Arab Order" to start with. History has proved that on a few occasions the Arab states were able to sideline their internal differences and adopt collective action to defend their collective rights and interests.

The 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war is the most outstanding example, where a strong Arab stand behind Iraq thwarted Iran and precipitated the danger of a total scrambling of the region's power in the Arabian Gulf. Of course, what followed 10 years later was catastrophic to all of us, but then what stands up in our memory of the Gulf crisis is the marked absence of a coherent Arab understanding of what had happened and what was to come. And we all are still paying the price, and those who believe they came off the best from the conflict will soon find out their actual losses.

Jordan has lived with the fallout from the creation of the

state of Israel for a better part of its modern existence as a coherent national entity, and there cannot be any escape from the fact that the hopes and aspirations of Jordan and Jordanians, regardless of their origins, would be closely linked to the repercussions and dimensions of the unaddressed Arab-Israeli conflict.

All said and done, let me sum up our hopes and dreams for the New Year (there is nothing to stop us from wishing, is there?):

— That the Arab states appreciate and realise that unless they throw their collective weight behind those among them who are actually involved in negotiations with Israel it is a foregone conclusion that the net outcome of the peace process would be far short of what we all aspire for.

— That the Arabs who continue to live in the past, still harbouring hostilities towards other Arabs stemming from perceptions of conspiracy and collusion against each other, should clear the webs in their thinking and appreciate that adopting principled positions does not mean plotting against anybody.

— That the Arab states appreciate and realise that unless they throw their collective weight behind those among them who are actually involved in negotiations with Israel it is a foregone conclusion that the net outcome of the peace process would be far short of what we all aspire for.

— That Jordan be spared from the pressure that it is facing to undertake moves that are not compatible with the state of progress (or the lack of it) in its efforts to address its legitimate concerns and achieve its inalienable rights through negotiations with Israel. While the pressure may not be in a very direct, form and nature, ignoring Jordan's repeated appeals that such moves are nothing but political suicide and mean abandoning its legitimate rights is in the final analysis alarm of

— That those among us whose positions are based on extremist thinking reconsider their rejection of the realities on the ground and of a gradual process that holds out hopes for an equitable solution. The state of Israel, whether we like it or not, is a reality on the ground, and, given the geopolitics of the region and the international scene, it is a pipedream to envision an Arab/Middle Eastern entity between "the (Mediterranean) sea and the (Jordan) river." Indeed it is a bitter pill to swallow, and none of us likes it, but then pragmatism compels us to accept the cold facts and bitter realities and seek to make the best out of the given, with a determination that all our moves and actions be oriented towards bringing about an international appreciation of the legitimacy of our cause.

— That Jordan be spared from the pressure that it is facing to undertake moves that are not compatible with the state of progress (or the lack of it) in its efforts to address its legitimate concerns and achieve its inalienable rights through negotiations with Israel. While the pressure may not be in a very direct, form and nature, ignoring Jordan's repeated appeals that such moves are nothing but political suicide and mean abandoning its legitimate rights is in the final analysis alarm of

— That the democratisation of Jordan continues unimpeded and everyone of our people realises that it is up to us to improve our living conditions through hard work and dedication rather than expecting others to help. The Japanese example after World War II is the best example of a national appreciation of the fact that hard work pays off and it is a folly to hope someone would come along with miracles to change things overnight.

— That our elected representatives realise that the fate of the people who elected them lies in their hands and seek changes that contribute to national progress and the welfare of people. Important in such an approach is a realisation that they have a responsibility to look at things in a broader perspective and appreciate that changing social and cultural behaviour of people does not fall under democratic reforms. Lifestyles are individual choices and the people's representatives should not seek to bring about imposed solutions in our daily lives. It should be left to individuals to sense what is best for them in their social and cultural life and exercise their own options and restraints as they find fit rather than Parliament dictate to them how they should live and behave.

— That the New Year brings peace and prosperity to all of us.

Happy New Year to all.

## Jordan and peace process — rules have changed

(Continued from page 1)

was particularly concerned with implications related to the presence of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees living in Jordan and the option of their return to their homeland in the context of a solution to the conflict. But Jordanian-Israeli and Jordanian-PLO contacts appeared to have helped allay such concerns, and contributed to holding the elections on time. The decline of the Islamic movement's clout in the 80-seat Parliament, after it lost seven of the 23 seats occupied in the previous legislature, strengthened the hand of supporters of the peace process in Jordan.

While Syria (together with Lebanon) said it would boycott the resumption of talks in Washington unless Israel declared its commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights in line with U.N. Resolution 242, secret and public negotiations continued between Israel and the PLO.

Jordan, concerned that PLO-Israel talks may bypass Jordanian interests, set up six joint committees with the PLO with the aim of coordinating steps and defining future Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The Kingdom also declared in November that it could implement elements of a peace deal with Israel before signing a final agreement.

In a series of interviews following the Israel-PLO accord, King Hussein renewed Jordan's commitment

to a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli problem, but said that "we are going ahead regarding the details of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and regarding all issues we have to prepare for and to deal with." He said Jordan saw no reason why it cannot reach agreements on a host of bilateral issues with Israel as they negotiated a final comprehensive Middle East peace deal.

On Oct. 1, Crown Prince Hassan met with Mr. Peres at the White House at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton. An agreement was reached to set up a trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-American committee to tackle economic cooperation. Within two months, Jordan finalised an agreement with Israel in Washington allowing Jordanian banks to reopen branches in the West Bank closed after the 1967 war. These developments followed unconfirmed reports that King Hussein had met secretly with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Peres several times between September and November. The received meetings were given more credibility when the King held a press conference in Amman in November, confirming that such meetings took place.

The deterioration reached a peak when a Jordanian official was quoted as warning that if the PLO continued to ignore the need for coordination with Jordan, the Kingdom may adopt bilateral measures with Israel to open the Prince Mohammad Bridge linking Jordan with the West Bank city of Nablus or open a new crossing from Agaba. This would have rendered futile PLO-Israel talks on crossing from Jericho to Jordan since the new crossings were outside the realm of Palestinian self-rule.

The official also referred to Parliament's decision last Sunday to keep Jerusalem as one of the governorates where Jordan could open an appeals court, describing the move as "a symbolic rejection of the disengagement decision" of July 31, 1988.

Mr. Arafat flew to Jordan on Thursday. His talks with King Hussein ended with statements from both sides confirming the intention of resuming coordination. Mr. Arafat was quoted by the

Palestinian news agency, WAFA, as saying that joint committees would resume meetings in Amman within a week.

While Syria and Lebanon have boycotted the multilateral talks, Jordan — and the PLO — attended all committee meetings on arms control, the environment, water, refugees and economic cooperation.

Jordan and Israel, under the chairmanship of Japan who heads the environment committee, reached their first concrete agreement on environment control for the Gulf of Aqaba. The two agreed to share equipment for monitoring the ecology of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Jordan sees an enormous economic potential in the implementation of full peace in the region. Megaprojects like the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal and water channelling from Turkey can only benefit the Kingdom.

The events of 1993 will most certainly spill over to 1994. The peace process and its implications, the continued Jordanian efforts to normalise ties with estranged Gulf Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, and the expected lifting of the economic embargo against Iraq are key factors to influence Jordan in the coming year. Prospects of a comprehensive peace, however, appear to be a long way ahead, with nobody expecting a comprehensive settlement until after the conclusion of negotiations on the final status of both the land and people of Palestine.

There are better ways to deal with the problem of alcohol. Parliament might, for instance, use its time to examine ways to educate people about the dangers and disadvantages of alcohol. Parliament could also insist that part of the revenues from alcohol taxes be used for such programmes.

What is perhaps more disturbing than the positions taken by some of the strongest proponents of the law is that taken by supposed "moderates". Those are the deputies who, merely for fear of being branded "un-Islamic", are likely to support the law. They should pay heed to another sin forbidden by the Holy Koran: hypocrisy.

By failing to debate the full implications of the law, Parliament is betraying the trust placed in it when it was elected. In these enlightened times, our deputies should spend less time thinking up new ways to bully the public. They ought to apply more effort to monitoring the performance of the government and finding solutions to our real problems: poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and ill-health. Alcohol is certainly a relevant social issue, and is indeed banned in Islam, but it should be addressed through education, not through unconstitutional edict.

Muslims have a right, and indeed a duty, to do their best to increase understanding of the ideals of Islam. They should not imagine, however, that this must be done through intolerance and a lack of respect for the intelligence and views of their fellow citizens. Tolerance, wisdom, persuasion and debate are well-known features of the faith. Those who seek to stifle argument, even on such sensitive matters, and impose change by compulsion, are truly deviating from the right course of Islam.

## PLO tables compromise proposals

(Continued from page 1)

that Jordan and the PLO had signed the accord did not alter either side's perception on the nature of the front-line, particularly the Golan Heights. While Israel has been moving forward, pushing the Jordanian-Palestinian frontiers, the PLO has been content with counter-measures designed to tie the Jordanian-Palestinian frontiers.

Taking into consideration the alarmingly rapid erosion of Palestinian unity and disintegration of Palestinian institutions, even the optimists in the PLO are alarmed by prospects of what could be a national catastrophe for the Palestinian people.

The first week of 1994 will be very indicative of the direction the PLO leadership, particularly Yasser Arafat, will steer the political course, especially regarding broader representation and the building of democratic Palestinian institutions. The leadership will meet this week to discuss reforms and chart out a clearer strategy.

## LETTERS

### Education vs. unconstitutional edicts

To the Editor:

I have been following the debate on the proposed law to ban Muslims from selling or producing alcohol in Jordan. Yet it is rather hard to understand how it is that while our illustrious law-makers have rightly spent so much time examining Islam's Holy Book, the Koran, apparently none of them seems to have paid much attention to democracy's holy book, the Jordanian Constitution. Article six, paragraph two of our Constitution states that:

"Jordanians shall be equal before the Law. There shall be no discrimination between them as regards their rights and duties, on grounds of race, language or religion."

It is clear and unambiguous that any law that allows Christians to be employed one way and bars Muslims from the same occupation directly violates this article and discriminates against Muslims. There may well be good arguments for why this provision should be set aside, but none of the members of Parliament have made that case. This is particularly odd considering that those deputies most strongly in favour of the proposed law are often those quickest to accuse the government of violating the Constitution whenever it is in the interest of those members to do so.

Notwithstanding this serious oversight, there are wider issues here. In a time of democratisation and assumption of personal responsibility, it is anachronistic for Parliament to be seeking to impose morals and values on people by force and compulsion. It is indeed ironic that the Islamic Action Front deputies who are pushing for the ban have so little faith in the strength of our religion that they want to use the coercive apparatus of the state to advance their cause.

Experience in countries as far apart as the United States and Saudi Arabia has shown that banning alcohol, even partially, simply forces its use and abuse underground. Moreover, it increases the profit margins for criminals and smugglers and facilitates organised crime. The money from alcohol taxes which would have gone to the treasury, instead lines the pockets of gangsters. We should not close our eyes to these facts.

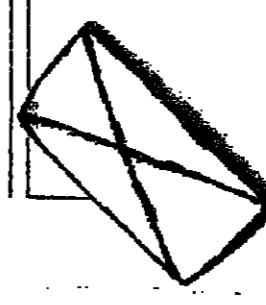
There are better ways to deal with the problem of alcohol. Parliament might, for instance, use its time to examine ways to educate people about the dangers and disadvantages of alcohol. Parliament could also insist that part of the revenues from alcohol taxes be used for such programmes.

What is perhaps more disturbing than the positions taken by some of the strongest proponents of the law is that taken by supposed "moderates". Those are the deputies who, merely for fear of being branded "un-Islamic", are likely to support the law. They should pay heed to another sin forbidden by the Holy Koran: hypocrisy.

By failing to debate the full implications of the law, Parliament is betraying the trust placed in it when it was elected. In these enlightened times, our deputies should spend less time thinking up new ways to bully the public. They ought to apply more effort to monitoring the performance of the government and finding solutions to our real problems: poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and ill-health. Alcohol is certainly a relevant social issue, and is indeed banned in Islam, but it should be addressed through education, not through unconstitutional edict.

Muslims have a right, and indeed a duty, to do their best to increase understanding of the ideals of Islam. They should not imagine, however, that this must be done through intolerance and a lack of respect for the intelligence and views of their fellow citizens. Tolerance, wisdom, persuasion and debate are well-known features of the faith. Those who seek to stifle argument, even on such sensitive matters, and impose change by compulsion, are truly deviating from the right course of Islam.

Ali Abunimah,  
University of Chicago,  
Dept. of Political Science,  
419 Pick Hall,  
5828 S. University Avenue,  
Chicago, IL 60637,  
U.S.A.





## Majali Cabinet seen capable of delivering on its promises

(Continued from page 1)

played an instrumental role in delaying the signing of an Israeli-Jordanian agenda until progress was registered on the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations.

This cautious attitude towards developments in Arab-Israeli negotiations allowed most opponents of the peace process, especially the Islamists, to dilute their public criticism of the process since they did not fear that an agreement was imminent.

The Sharif Zeid government, with its low-key back-door policy of containing the strong Islamist forces in the Lower House, was able to concentrate more on issues such as administrative reform and gaining acceptance of a number of stringent economic adjustment policies, including the raising of fuel and bread prices.

In May 1993, the appointment of Dr. Majali as head of a government that was entrusted with amending the Election Law put an end to what until that time appeared to be a smooth countdown to the first multi-party national elections expected within the last three months of 1993. The 11th Parliament had held its last session in March and there was no move to convene an extraordinary session either.

Dr. Majali, who formed his cabinet without consultation with the country's right-wing Islamists or nationalist leftists, set the ground for a headlong confrontation with the legislative authority which felt threatened by the unexpected challenge posed to it by a government that largely appeared to ignore its presence.

Although the issues that needed to be handled by the Sharif Zeid and Majali governments were in essence the same — the peace process, the economic adjustment programme and national stability — the style of the two premiers split the year into two distinct halves, each very much different from the other.

The first reaction to the appointment of Dr. Majali was fear that the executive authority would revert to trying to dominate its legislative counterpart and minimise its role.

This opinion gained ground when the cabinet of Dr. Majali was named and it became apparent that its members were largely "autocrats" who were expected to pay scant attention to the political reverberations of their executive choices.

Opposition to Dr. Majali's government had become vocal even before it had announced what later became some of the most controversial decisions in the Kingdom's four years of democratisation.

When news of an impending move to dissolve Parliament and introduce an amendment to block-voting in elections became common knowledge, political parties, which until then were pacified by promises of a public debate, raised the level of their opposition.

The Dr. Majali government appeared to have gained the upper hand over the legislative authority, and, by extension, the country's newly-licensed political parties, until the Nov. 8 national elections.

Parallel to a growing public fear about what the parties called hegemony of the ex-

ecutive authority, Jordanians were also edgy about the government's handling of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Statements by government officials indicating that the PLO and Jordan had reached agreement on the "principle" that there should be no "duplication" in voting for Jordanians of Palestinian origin were received as an indication that Jordanians of Palestinian origin would be asked to make an immediate choice on citizenship.

Although Dr. Majali rejected that the government was contemplating any such measure, speculation did not end until His Majesty King Hussein made a statement on Oct. 12 in which he said that the elections would not have bearing on the rights of Jordanian voters of Palestinian origin who, he said, "will be able to choose what they please when the choice of return or compensation or both becomes available to them."

The absence of an active Parliament in the first five months of Premier Majali's term in office only contributed to generating a feeling that the executive authority was staging a comeback as the foremost authority in the country. To many analysts it meant a possible return to pre-democracy martial law form of government.

On Nov. 8, a new Lower House was elected. While the results indicated an ebb for the Islamists and renewed strength for traditionalist independent tribalists, the new House wanted to assert itself as a parallel force to the executive authority and not its subordinate.

The record of Dr. Majali, who over decades headed successful institutions in the country, had lent itself to many politicians to believe that he will be able to deliver on his promises.

Balance was restored to the relationship between the legislative and executive authorities during the vote of confidence session earlier this month. After a gruelling three days of criticism from the newly-elected deputies, Dr. Majali took the podium and in his speech accepted Parliament as an equal authority.

What he promised in his reply speech, coupled with the government policy statement read out by King Hussein as a Speech from the Throne earlier, coined the tasks of his government in what appeared to be the first time that his government was to gain acceptance from the body politics as represented in the House.

Despite the low vote of confidence, Dr. Majali's government was starting to gain approval for its declared policy of pushing ahead with the Middle East peace process and its undeclared policy of containing the Islamist influence in the country.

By the last days of 1993, the government of Dr. Majali was able to win to its side some dissident deputies and politicians by promising that the real test of its credibility will be in the days and weeks to come.

This credibility, officials and observers maintain, will largely depend on the government's ability to institutionalise legislation that would protect the path of democracy in the country and improve the living standards of citizens.

The record of Dr. Majali, who over decades headed successful institutions in the country, had lent itself to many politicians to believe that he will be able to deliver on his promises.

## 12th Parliament fastens belts for effective four-year term

(Continued from page 1)

such dialogue took place before it dissolved Parliament on Aug. 4 and unilaterally changed the law 13 days later.

Deputies and political parties reacted with anger. They said the national dialogue never occurred, and the dissolution of Parliament was a preemptive move that provides a legal cover for changing the election law through a temporary legislation. That, some described as undemocratic and others labelled unconstitutional.

The Muslim Brotherhood, now politically active under the umbrella of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), threatened to boycott the elections and other parties said they would take the government to court.

The IAF said it was targeted by the new electoral rules which observers said would weaken the Islamists and other organised political parties to the advantage of tribal figures and traditional politicians.

Opponents of the change also said the temporary election law which replaced the bloc-voting system with the one-person, one-vote formula was incomplete. While many of them agreed the old

election law needed to be amended, they argued the change should have included a redistribution of parliamentary seats and a redrawing of electoral constituencies.

But the government paid little attention to these arguments and its opponents fell short of carrying out their threats. The government was not sued and no one boycotted the polls when they took place on Nov. 8.

Opposition parties challenged the government again when it said it might postpone the polls in light of the demographic and political challenges brought about by the signing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel Gaza-Jericho first accord on Sept. 13.

Amidst the initial euphoria over the historic agreement there were fears and uncertainty about the implications of the agreement for Jordan.

Less than two weeks after the agreement was signed, the government floated the idea of putting the polls off until after the future of Palestinian refugees in Jordan was cleared. Some political parties and figures said the argument for postponing the polls was sound as others said such a move would constitute a setback to democracy in Jordan.

The uncertainty was

cleared when the government announced on Sept. 30 that polling centres would open on Nov. 8 and urged people to register for voting.

Over 60 per cent of the 950,000 voters who collected their voting cards from the 1.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls to elect 80 deputies from among 550 contenders.

The results of the polls, which were preceded by a lacklustre election campaign, were close to the outcome expected from the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula.

Traditional and tribal figures fared well in the elections, which saw the parliamentary representation of the IAF reduced from 23 to 16 and 10 supporters from 10 to five.

While some expected the 12th Parliament to be docile, others said the government will have to work hard before it can win its confidence, arguing that only a change of priorities would occur. They said that while the majority of lawmakers would not challenge the government on its participation in the Arab-Israeli peace process and the premise of its economic policy, they would press it hard on bread and butter issues that dominated the election campaigns. The latter proved

closer to the truth.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali won a vote of confidence from the House on Dec. 8. But his humble victory, with 41 votes in favour, 29 against and nine abstentions, came after four difficult days during which many of the 73 deputies who took the floor castigated his cabinet for its alleged undemocratic actions and autocratic style of government.

Deputies sought to reassert the power of the legislature. The executive understood the message.

In a speech that lasted for over two hours before the vote of confidence was taken, Dr. Majali pledged a healthy and cooperative legislative-executive relationship.

Dr. Majali promised respect for the role of the House. The deputies accepted the promise but warned they would be watching to see the pledge fulfilled.

The uncertainty about the future of parliamentary life that 1993 at one point held will make it a year to remember, but so will other positive landmarks.

Not only did 1993 see the holding of the first multi-party elections in over three decades, it also witnessed the election of the first woman deputy in the history of the Kingdom,

tackled as soon as the two sides will engage in thorough discussions about all aspects of the relationship.

It was not clear if the Palestinians will ask for modifications on the draft agreement, but the PLO leadership was expected to formulate working papers to bring to a meeting for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination committee.

## Jordan and PLO to revitalise coordination

(Continued from page 1)

points. PLO officials said that Israel had repeatedly used Jordan as a pretext to refuse Palestinian control over the crossings. Israeli claims that Jordan opposed Palestinian control over the bridges had prompted Jordan to send official messages to Mr. Arafat affirming support for the Palestinian stand.

Thursday's surprise visit by Mr. Arafat was partly triggered by the founding of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over control over crossing

"Both sides, particularly the PLO officials said that Israel had repeatedly used Jordan as a pretext to refuse Palestinian control over the crossings. Israeli claims that Jordan opposed Palestinian control over the bridges had prompted Jordan to send official messages to Mr. Arafat affirming support for the Palestinian stand.

Although a Jordanian-Palestinian draft economic agreement was not discussed, according to well-placed sources, any differences over the pact were expected to be

## Jordan has confidence in economic goals

(Continued from page 1)

the number of new local products appearing in the market evidences a trend to manufacture consumer goods to meet local demands; a healthy sign, experts say, except for what appears to be a tendency to imitate successful businesses while the market scope remains limited.

The government, long a target of criticism that red tape and bureaucracy are discouraging foreign investors, is implementing a new law on incentives to encourage fresh investments, but complaints have been heard that it is not doing enough abroad to solicit investors with a proper presentation of the incentives and facilities it offers.

A briefing by Finance Minister Sami Gammoh to Parliament members last week served as one of the best guides to the Kingdom's economic status. Among other things, the finance minister told deputies that:

The government intends to maintain a level of 23 per cent of the GDP in investment and increase savings 11 per cent by 1998. The present policy of leaving to market forces to

determine commercial bank interest rates will be maintained.

The foreign exchange grid system will be maintained, with more flexibility afforded to exchanges and banks to determine the exchange rate of the dinar while ensuring the stability of the currency. This implied close monitoring of the market and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) intervention whenever necessary to correct what the government feels as instable factors.

Mr. Gammoh also explained how the IMF programme helped Jordan to reschedule its debts and gain access to World Bank loans and multinational aid to help develop local sectors, which in turn could contribute to addressing inefficiencies and below-optimum utilisation of the overall debt.

The United States holds about \$950 million of Jordan's debts, followed by France and Japan with about \$900 million each.

The former Soviet Union was another major debtor, account for about \$750 million, but Jordan has reached an agreement under which part of the debts are being settled in cash and the other in goods.

The Kingdom has appealed for debt relief, but international experts doubt whether outright write-off would be extended. They say creditors might opt for other forms of relief such as conversion of debts into investments and holdings in dinars.

recent raid, police found pistols, gas masks, false military IDs, and PKK documents at its Istanbul office.

Ozgur Gundem said the materials were intended for news purposes, and the pistols and gas masks were to protect its reporters.

Extremists also are blamed for the killings of pro-Kurdish journalists.

The PKK ordered mainstream Turkish reporters out of the southeast to protest what it said was biased reporting.

It doesn't help that Turkey's press also is suffering from a credibility problem, accused of focusing on profits at the expense of professional standards.

Total daily newspaper sales have held steady at about three million for nearly two decades, despite a fast-growing population.

The media in Turkey is no longer a means for disseminating information and intelligent comment aimed at informing and enlightening the public," wrote Semih Idiz in the Turkish Daily News.

"It is only a medium for generating massive profits for newspaper owners."

The newspaper is charged with collaborating with the separatist Kurdish Labour Party, known as the PKK. In a

(Continued from page 1)

terms, sports clubs and swimming pools.

The Progress and Justice Party and Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party are licensed.

February:

1: Snowstorms hit the country.

2: Bread prices goes up by 10 fils.

3: Abu Shakoush hits again.

4: King Hussein forms committee to prepare the Centre Study of Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights in the Arab World.

5: The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party is licensed — Jordan, Kazakhstan establish diplomatic ties.

6: The Freedom Party, is licensed.

7: Bakers say they will protest increase in the price of government-subsidised flour.

8: The Royal Court announces the engagement of Prince Abdullah to Rania Faisal Yassin.

9: The Press and Publication Law passes through Senate after heated debate.

10: Police announce the arrest of three suspects in three attacks on shops in Amman and say Abu Shakoush did not exist.

March:

1: The House endorses a teacher union law.

2: The Society for combating Zionism and Racism is launched.

3: World Trade Centre suspect's father says son totally innocent; Jordanians condemn New York blast.

4: Islamists defeated in bid to segregate children at schools.

5: Bakers, government reach compromise.

6: The House endorses public sector salaries.

7: The House endorses government move to collect arms.

8: Islamist deputies launch campaign to ban alcohol in Jordan.

9: The House holds last session of regular term.

April:

1: Abdul Rahman Udwani replaces Fadel Ali as chief of Public Security Department.

2: The King opens a pan-Arab labour conference.

3: The Cabinet close to enacting temporary Sales Tax Law.

4: The Arab Baath Progressive Party is licensed.

5: One fifth of Jordanian families live under poverty line — study.

6: Prince Hassan urges women to assume active role.

7: Jerash's 12th annual festival of arts and culture closes.

August:

1: Parliament dissolved.

Security Court in his coverage of the Muta University trial.

2: Jordan will not accept Palestinian refugees from Syria and Lebanon.

3: Maan Abu Nowar proposes press code of honour for journalists.

4: Four executions in Jordan draw little reaction from rights activists.

5: King endorses a temporary amendment to Election Law introducing a one-person, one-vote system; opponents say they will contest temporary legislation in court.

6: Journalists oppose press code of conduct.

7: Heat wave hits country.

8: IAF decides to take part in elections.

9: Independent Islamist Leith Shebelat quits politics.

10: Israeli cabinet approves accord with PLO.

September:

1: Palestinian refugees in Amman split over Gaza-Jericho accord — first cases of typhoid reported in Ajloun.

## Asian stocks end '93 on a raging bull run

HONG KONG (R) — Asian stocks ended the year of the raging bull market by setting a clutch of new record highs Friday and brokers said they expect more records to fall in the new year.

The dollar, meanwhile, ended a very quiet day little changed in trade dominated by year-end position adjustments in the absence of Tokyo dealers, brokers said.

It closed at 1,734.50 marks after holding within a 10-point range from its opening 1,734.85 level. The dollar firmed slightly against the yen to close at 111.80/90 level from its 111.80/90 opening level.

Taiwan's vibrant stock market set the pace surging 257.01 points to a 30-month high of 2,425.68, representing an 80 per cent gain on the year.

"Some people took profits (in the morning) but then they saw how strong the market was and rushed to buy again," said

Ben Chen of Barings in Taipei. "But by that time there were almost no stocks available any more."

The Tokyo, Seoul, Manila, Bangkok and Jakarta stock markets were closed for the new year holidays.

Last minute bargain-hunting in Hong Kong erased an early 248.41 loss to send the Hang Seng index to yet another all-time high of 11,888.39, a gain of 10.92 points on the day and 115.67 per cent advance on the year.

Brokers said they suspected a touch of window-dressing in afternoon trade to ensure the Hang Seng ended the year in positive territory after morning profit-taking.

"After the new year the market is going higher," said Ivan Leung of PBI Securities in Hong Kong.

Brokers said speculators regarded the presence of three eights in the Hang Seng's close as auspicious.

"Eight" in the Cantonese dialect spoken in Hong Kong is a homonym for prosperity.

Kuala Lumpur and Sydney proved no exception to the trend, climbing 45.59 points to a record 1,275.32 high and 19.1 points to a post-1987 crash high of 2,173.60 respectively.

Singapore also gained but was an exception in breaking no records en route to its 35.07 gain to its 2,425.68 close, just off a new high.

"We have seen a remarkable year and have been overwhelmed by good things," a Vickers Balfas dealing director said.

The holiday spirit spilled over into the energy market with spot prices holding steady in quiet Asian trade, dampened by the absence of Tokyo traders.

February Brent was well bid at \$13.20 while February NYMEX light crude was bid around Thursday's settlement of \$14.17.

## Study says Japanese car plants in U.S. cost jobs

WASHINGTON (R) — The growth of Japanese-owned car plants in the United States since 1982 has weakened the domestic car industry almost as much as imports and has cost 158,000 jobs, according to a private study.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal research group, contradicts the views of some economists that the Japanese car "transplants" have helped revitalise the domestic industry by forcing it to be more competitive.

"Contrary to what some have claimed, Japanese investment in the U.S. auto industry is not a solution to our declining competitiveness in that sector," concluded the report, titled Japanese Auto Transplants and the U.S. Automobile Industry.

Even though Japanese transplants in the United States, like Honda, Nissan, Toyota and Mazda hire U.S. workers,

they have destroyed other American jobs by using a higher percentage of imported parts than big three carmakers General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, the report said.

"You can call a transplant half an import," said the report's author, Candace Howes, a University of Notre Dame economics professor and former car industry analyst for the United Auto Workers.

Dr. Howes, estimated that output of "transplanted" Japanese cars in the United States will rise to three million units a year by the middle 1990s on top of the two million imported units a year, which would be unchanged from 1982.

But since about half the parts in "transplanted" cars are imported, the three million cars made in Japanese-owned plants each year are the equivalent of another 1.5 million imports, which will have eliminated a net 158,000 job

opportunities and \$6 billion a year in income by the mid-1990s, Dr. Howes said.

Japanese car companies began assembling cars in the United States in the early 1980s in part because of voluntary agreements that limit car imports. More recently two German car makers, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, have announced plans to open plants in South Carolina and Alabama, respectively.

The report said transplanted foreign plants often get tax breaks from state governments and have other built-in advantages over the big three car makers. Because they are newer with a younger, more rural, less unionised workforce, their health, pension and wage costs are lower, it said.

Further, the report said Japanese companies mostly have not transferred more highly skilled design work of their American plants.

Even though Japanese transplants in the United States, like Honda, Nissan, Toyota and Mazda hire U.S. workers,

## Hanoi boosts passes bankruptcy law

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's parliament, nailing in place more planks of its fledgling market economy, has boosted its 1994 growth target to eight per cent and passed a landmark bankruptcy law to start paring down the state sector.

The national assembly finished its three-week session with a vote to set next year's gross domestic product (GDP) growth target at eight per cent, the official Vietnam News said Friday, up from about 7.2 per cent for this year.

Industrial output value was targeted to grow by 11 per cent in 1994, while exports should grow by 20 per cent and inflation should remain under 10 per cent, the parliament projected Thursday.

Agricultural output, long the mainstay of the economy, was seen rising by four per cent next year to hit an output of 25 million tonnes of food in 1994, the newspaper said.

The centrepiece of the half-year parliament session was passage of the hotly-argued

bankruptcy bill, which will finally provide Vietnam with a legal framework to force state companies to sink or swim according to their market performance.

"The issuing of this law is very important and necessary," the assembly said in a statement published Friday. "(It) helps to push enterprises to make efficient business decisions and ensures social order and discipline."

Vietnam's socialist-style state sector, a relic of the days when Hanoi copied Soviet cen-

## Israeli parliament approves '94 budget

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament approved Friday a 126.5 billion shekel (\$42.2 billion) state budget for 1994 after week-long deliberations. The vote was 62-44.

The budget was passed after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered rebellious members of his Labour Party not to pursue large increases in welfare expenditures.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said the budget did not include expenses for the implementation of Israel's accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for limited Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The matter of the expenses of implementing our accord with the PLO is not in the budget," Mr. Shohat told Israel radio. "These will be hundreds of thousands of shekels for redeployment of the army and other security forces and security arrangements for Jewish settlements."

Defence, which accounted for 18.2 billion shekels (\$6.5 billion) in the 1993 operating budget, remains the largest item at 20.24 billion shekels (\$7.5 billion).

The budget contains provisions that for the first time will bring child allowance payments to Israeli Arab families up to par with those made to Jews.

The budget allocates \$330 million to finalise the restructuring of the ailing, state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries.

The deficit, which by law will be phased out over the coming years, is projected at 3.0 per cent of gross domestic product in 1994 compared to the 1993 projection of 3.2 per cent.

Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 3.5 per cent, a lower rise than in the past two years due largely to a drop in public sector housing construction, according to official figures released this week. In 1992, GDP rose by 6.6 per cent and in 1991, by 6.2 per cent.

Unemployment in 1993 was an average of 10.4 per cent, compared with 11.2 per cent in 1992, and was expected to fall.

Brokers are likely to view his move, and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's rejection of the resignation of reformist Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, as good news to start the year.

The Planning Commission is regarded as a convenient siding into which officials can be shunted, political analysts said.

Mr. Ramakrishna, feisty 63-year-old Harvard-trained bureaucrat and former diplomat, has been locked in battle with India's powerful stock broking community to clean up Indian bourses.

Asked if he was happy about being shifted from SEBI in the middle of a major controversy, Mr. Ramakrishna said: "I'll do what I have been assigned to do."

Brokers at four major Indian stock exchanges exactly a week ago ended a 10-day strike in protest against a SEBI ban on forward trading, imposed in a bid to curb what Mr. Ramakrishna had called excessive speculation.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) index had reached a 1993 high of 3,454.81 on Dec. 13, up 32 per cent since the beginning of November, when the ban was imposed.

An analyst with India Securities Ltd said however Mr. Nadkarni was likely to continue the reform process.

## EEA knocks out NAFTA as world's biggest single market

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Economic Area (EEA), which from midnight linked the European Community (EC) and EFTA in a giant trading zone, outstrips the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as the world's biggest single market.

While NAFTA, a free trade zone linking the United States, Canada and Mexico, is far bigger than EEA in terms of territory, the EEA is bigger in terms of population, scope, gross domestic product and share of world trade.

"Although the Americans claim that NAFTA is bigger, that's not true. We are bigger from many points of view. It is the world's biggest single market and as such has tremendous importance," EFTA Secretary General Georg Reisch told Reuters.

While NAFTA is almost five times bigger than the EEA in terms of territory, the EEA will have 372 million consumers, against 360 million in NAFTA. The EEA's GDP stands at \$7,501 billion against \$6,770 billion in NAFTA and the EEA exports \$3,878 annually per person against only \$1,683 for NAFTA, according to EFTA figures.

And the EEA, whose members overall send more than half of their exports to each other, will cover \$1,679 billion in imports and \$1,615 billion in exports against only \$715 billion and \$634 billion respectively in NAFTA, according to the EFTA figures.

EEA (European Free Trade Association) officials pointed out that the EEA also extends to trade in most services, unlike NAFTA which remains restricted to a single labour market.

The EEA is also bigger than ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, which has set a 15-year timetable for implementing its own trading zone AFTA (Asian Free Trade Area).

ASEAN groups Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

The Indian Express newspaper said Mr. Ramakrishna's place could be taken by the former chairman of the Industrial Development Bank of India, S.S. Nadkarni.

His replacement appeared the result of behind-the-scenes manoeuvring by brokers opposed to his hardline stance against rampant speculation in the stock market, analysts said.

Brokers are likely to view his move, and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's rejection of the resignation of reformist Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, as good news to start the year.

The Planning Commission is regarded as a convenient siding into which officials can be shunted, political analysts said.

Mr. Ramakrishna, feisty 63-year-old Harvard-trained bureaucrat and former diplomat, has been locked in battle with India's powerful stock broking community to clean up Indian bourses.

Asked if he was happy about being shifted from SEBI in the middle of a major controversy, Mr. Ramakrishna said: "I'll do what I have been assigned to do."

Brokers at four major Indian stock exchanges exactly a week ago ended a 10-day strike in protest against a SEBI ban on forward trading, imposed in a bid to curb what Mr. Ramakrishna had called excessive speculation.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) index had reached a 1993 high of 3,454.81 on Dec. 13, up 32 per cent since the beginning of November, when the ban was imposed.

An analyst with India Securities Ltd said however Mr. Nadkarni was likely to continue the reform process.

## Gold rises 17.4% in '93

LONDON (R) — After a roller-coaster ride in 1993, the gold price ended the year 17.4 per cent higher. Gold was fixed in London Friday at \$390.65 per ounce, down \$1.10 from the fresh five-month high set Thursday afternoon. Bullion began the year at \$329.40 before sliding to its lowest fix since January 1986 of \$326.10 in March. In between, prices rallied to their highest fix since Sept. 28, 1990 of \$406.70 on Aug. 2 in a market fuelled by record imports to China, falling interest rates world wide and the well-publicised entry of financier James Goldsmith and George Soros to the market place.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 1, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Today's diverse aspects bring all sorts of unusual opportunities so remain alert at all times and bear in mind that it won't be business as usual. Engage in favourite hobby with congenials.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) It would be well to spend some time today meditating upon what you truly want out of life and how to get it. Step out social with key people tonight.

**TAURUS:**

(April 20 to May 20)

CLOSE TIES: (December 21 to January 20) Close ties demand that you get busy with joint interests and rightfully so. Enjoy or buy gadgets that will be time and labour-saving.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) Close ties demand that you get busy with joint interests and rightfully so. Enjoy or buy gadgets that will be time and labour-saving.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be alert to the many opportunities that are available to you and also raise your level of consciousness to greater things.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Talk over your ideas with authorities and you find they will cooperate with you and give needed backing. Also give much thought to what you desire.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) While you are highly inspired how to go after your aims today, it would be wise to take a good friend along with you. Even so, you can also be very successful.

**FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 1994**

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Five Moon in Virgo tries to Venus, Mars, Mercury, Sun, Neptune and a sextile to Jupiter make this the best day of the month to launch a course of action that will prove satisfactory all year.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) IDEAL DAY FOR STUDYING HIGHEST PHILOSOPHIES AND MOST MODERN PSYCHOLOGY SO THAT YOU CAN BE FAR MORE SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Take time today to figure out how better to systemise all of your affairs so that you know exactly where you are headed.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get together informally with partners today and be sure you make a good impression by living in Golden Rule so that you come to a full better understanding.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) You have every opportunity to help others who are in need today and store up blessings for yourself. Then be sure you get above in order.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Silent meditation is best this morning if you are to get your life planned on a more secure and spiritual basis for ultimate happiness.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You must be explicit with contraries if you want to get them to cooperate with you and be of real assistance for projects in mind for success.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) There are problems to be solved at home now, so be sure you view them objectively for best results. Then entertain at home in the evening and be perfectly happy, relaxed.

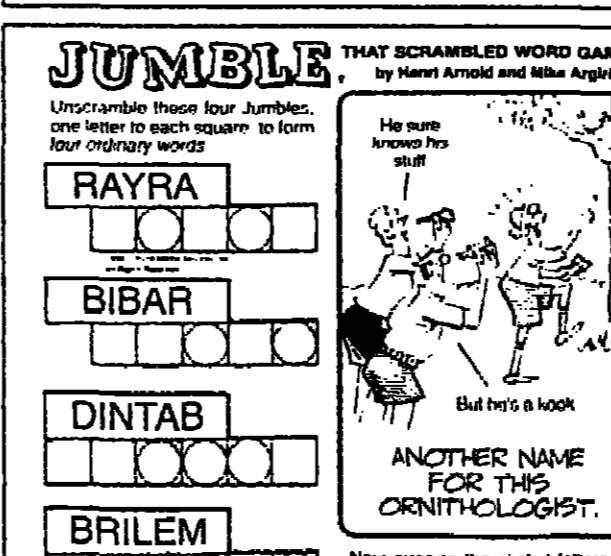
## THE BETTER HALF.



"Pizza seems less fattening if you cut the pepperoni slices in the shape of Richard Simmons."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.





## 'Main obstacles cleared' in U.S.-N. Korea nuclear talks

SEOUL (Agencies) — Washington and Pyongyang have agreed in principle on outside inspection of North Korea's suspect nuclear sites and cancellation of a U.S.-South Korean military exercise in 1994. Seoul's state radio said Friday.

"But they have failed to reach a full agreement due to trivial differences between their positions on the scope of the North Korean nuclear inspection," the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) quoted an unnamed senior South Korean government official as saying.

The report did not elaborate on differences in the talks between North Korean and U.S. envoys in New York Wednesday.

The official was quoted as saying the two sides had also agreed in principle on resumption of high-level contacts between them and of inter-Korean talks, as well as on the exchange of special envoys between North and South Korea.

Washington acknowledged Thursday it had moved closer to agreement with North Korea in the latest talks over the North's suspected nuclear arms development programme.

North Korea went further on the outcome, saying it had made a "breakthrough."

The North's Korean Central News Agency Thursday

quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the U.S. side had expressed readiness to stop its annual "Team Spirit" military exercise with South Korea.

In exchange, the North had basically agreed to resumption of inspections of its suspected facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said.

The North would continue to work for a final solution of the nuclear issue through further talks with Washington, he said, without mentioning a date for resumed talks.

"The North Korean spokesman's remarks can be interpreted as meaning it would accept U.S. demands in settling the differences," KBS quoted the Seoul official as saying.

"There is a high possibility that they would reach a full agreement," he said.

North Korea has for months been the focus of international suspicion it is attempting to create fissile material for an atomic bomb. It has denied the charge but refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Washington wants North Korea to resume talks on the nuclear issue with the South, as well as with the IAEA.

The North has insisted the only way to resolve the dispute is through direct talks with

Washington. Dialogue between the two Korean to discuss an exchange of special envoys, which Seoul believes would help settle the nuclear impasse, were stalled by the North's demand for the cancellation of next year's war games, which it describes as a rehearsal for invasion.

In a separate dispatch from Washington South Korea's Yonhap News Agency quoted sources there as saying early January should see more working level Washington-Pyongyang talks followed in mid-January by North Korea-IAEA negotiations and then South-North Korean talks later in the month. An IAEA team would then visit the North with a third round of high-level Washington-Pyongyang talks following in February.

"The United States and North Korea could not reach complete agreement (in Wednesday's low-level talks) as two problems arose at that contact," quoted the senior government official as saying. "But these problems are not crucial and I don't believe they will become an obstacle," he added.

Though declining to identify one of the problems, the official said the positive statement from Pyongyang Thursday "could be taken as its reply, accepting the U.S.-South Korean position."

The other problem that remained, he said, was the venue for resumption of talks between the IAEA and North Korea — with the North wanting Pyongyang and the U.S. preferring a third country, favouring Vienna.

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported from Pyongyang Friday that North Korean President Kim Il-Sung had told visiting Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto he expected a third round of Pyongyang-Washington high-level talks in January.

APP said Ms. Bhutto had offered to play a bridging role between Washington and Pyongyang on the nuclear issue and that Mr. Kim had said U.S. troops stationed in South Korea should be withdrawn.

U.S. agencies believe North Korea, which threatened to pull out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) in March, is trying to develop nuclear weapons in its Pyongyang complex North of Pyongyang, with two sites there targeted as most suspect.

Washington has threatened U.N. sanctions including an oil embargo on the isolated Stalinist state should it fail to allow inspections.

Japan, Russia and China have all joined in cautioning against pushing Pyongyang into a corner and urge a solution through dialogue.



The bodies of three people lie on the floor of the after gunmen attacked the crowded place (AFP Heidelberg Pub in Cape Town, South Africa, photo)

## 4 killed in 'barbaric' Cape Town attack

CAPE TOWN (R) — Black gunmen armed with automatic rifles and hand-grenades packed with nails killed four people and wounded five in a crowded Cape Town pub, the second such attack in the city in six months.

Police, offering a 200,000 rand (\$60,000) reward for information leading to the capture of the killers, set up roadblocks on all major roads out of the city.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Three of the victims were young women shot at close range as they huddled in a corner, witnesses said the fourth, a man cut down by gunfire as he tried to halt the carnage.

Several of the dead and wounded were white, witnesses said.

The wounded were named by police as Michael January, 27, Quinton Cornelius, 20, David Deglon, 28, Julian Fouché, 26 and Benjamin Braude, 20. Those killed have not so far been identified.

President F.W. De Klerk said the attack appeared aimed at undermining South Africa's transition to majority rule.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, like Mr. De Klerk a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, described it as a dastardly act intended to divide South Africans.

Five heavily-armed black gunmen burst into the packed Heidelberg Tavern, a trendy nightspot in the liberal Observatory suburb, just before midnight Thursday.

A grenade packed with nails was flung into the bar but failed to explode. Police said the toll could have been much higher had the grenade exploded.

Mr. De Klerk, reacting with "shock and horror," said in a statement, "There could be no justification for this barbaric act."

Johnson Mbombo, deputy president of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), whose armed wing has in the past claimed responsibility for similar attacks, told reporters the PAC did not know who was responsible for the "regrettable" incident.

The tactics used in the Observatory attack were similar to those used by black gunmen who killed 10 worshippers in St. James's Church in Cape Town in July. One of the more than 30 wounded later died. The gunmen are still at large.

Police blamed that attack on the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the PAC's armed wing, which has been negotiating the suspension of its armed struggle against white rule with the South African military.

The PAC says it will only take its place in the multi-party Transitional Executive Council helping to rule in the election run-up once the question of the armed struggle has been resolved to its satisfaction.

Arch. Tutu described the attack as "a blight on a season of peace and reconciliation."

"I say yet again that we condemn...completely and categorically this dastardly act as we condemn all violence that happens in other parts of the country," Arch. Tutu told reporters.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, expected to win South Africa's first all-race election on April 27, said the attack "must stand condemned by all who value democracy, peace and freedom."

Law and Order Minister Hermin Kriel, describing the attack as barbaric, said, "the sheer blood lust which marked this attack represents the kind of depravity to which perpetrators are prepared to sink...to destabilise the democratic process."

"They must and they will be stopped."

## Russian reformers to get lesser jobs

MOSCOW (R) — Ministers who pioneered bold economic reforms will be given lower-ranking jobs in Russia's new government, which will concentrate on investment and industrial output, Rossiiskiye Vesti newspaper said Friday.

"Our resolution to restore China's sovereignty over Hong Kong will not change," Mr. Jiang said in a new year's speech printed in the official Daily.

The message was clear — Britain's days of influence in Hong Kong were limited and London had better get used to it.

"The time when Britain can dominate the world with its gunboat diplomacy is gone for good and you should no longer dream the beautiful dream of being imperialists again," said a Xinhua editorial appearing in many newspapers.

"Do not say we have not warned you," it said.

As if acting on the implied threat, China said a committee formed to chart Hong Kong's transition had "intensified" its work. Some analysts believe the body will act as a pro-Beijing shadow government over the next three years.

Industrialist Oleg Soskovets would become the most senior deputy prime minister of three, and reformer Boris Fyodorov would be given a ministerial job.

Mr. Fyodorov is now deputy prime minister, a job that carries a higher rank than ministers.

Yegor Gaidar, the man who has masterminded reforms designed to transform Russia into a market economy, would stay in office as a deputy prime minister, but would report to Mr. Soskovets.

Mr. Fyodorov, whose office

displays the slogan that monetary growth is "the opium of the national economy", has warned against easing monetary reins and allowing spending to rise.

"The Minister of Finance, with his harsh attitude to creditors in industry, must either change his views or not hamper other people in saving the economy," Rossiiskiye Vesti wrote.

If Fyodorov was not prepared to allow new credits to restructure industry and increase Russia's competitiveness, his place should be occupied by a man sharing Geraschenko's views as far as constitutional rights, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara County authorities have been investigating child molestation allegations against Jackson, though no criminal charges have been filed.

The Minister of Finance, with his harsh attitude to creditors in industry, must either change his views or not hamper other people in saving the economy," Rossiiskiye Vesti wrote.

Reformers say Mr. Geraschenko has failed to crack down on inflation, a charge the former Soviet state banker angrily denies, saying monetarist producers are driving inflation up.

Ultra-nationalists, Communists and conservative Agrarians all did better than expected in the Dec. 12 elections and reformist parties will hold little more than a quarter of the seats in the new parliament.

Mr. Gaidar and Mr. Fyodorov, a former international banker brought into the government as finance minister and deputy prime minister at the end of last year, have been the driving forces behind Russia's economic reform programme.

Mr. Fyodorov, whose office

displays the slogan that monetary growth is "the opium of the national economy", has warned against easing monetary reins and allowing spending to rise.

"I am a friend of France," he told France-Info, speaking in fluent French. "I have never done anything bad to France. It is impossible to refuse me a visa."

He said his European trip was called off because of "misunderstandings" caused by journalists seeking "shocking and dramatic" statements.

"Journalists are always trying to find something evil in my actions, in the programme of my party," he said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky cancelled a visit to Australia planned for next week, saying he was too busy.

The Zionist Federation of Australia had opposed granting Mr. Zhirinovsky a visa because of his reported comments about Russian Jews.

He has even run into problems in the Netherlands, though he hasn't publicly mused about going there.

Dutch authorities are probing an Amsterdam company which reportedly financed Mr. Zhirinovsky's successful parliamentary campaign with bank-like transactions but with no banking license to do so.

## Zhirinovsky, spurned elsewhere, eyes France

PARIS (AP) — The world's welcome mats are being hastily pulled out from under Vladimir Zhirinovsky, but the unassuming Russian ultranationalist hopes he'll get a warmer reception in France.

Booted out of Bulgaria, barred from Germany and unwelcome in Romania, Austria and Australia, Mr. Zhirinovsky now has his eye on a February visit to Paris.

"I like France very much and I'm thinking about spending a few days in Paris," Mr. Zhirinovsky told France-Info Radio.

"Maybe I'll be able to meet Mr. (Jacques) Chirac and Mr. (Valery) Giscard D'Estaing, and other politicians well known in Russia," Mr. Zhirinovsky said in a telephone interview from Moscow.

The guerrillas struck again in the same area the following day, destroying a further 16 homes before being repelled by government forces.

Mr. Chirac, who is Paris' mayor and twice served as prime minister, is a leading conservative contender for the presidential election of 1995. Mr. Giscard D'Estaing a centrist, was president from 1974-81.

French officials would not rule out a visit by Mr. Zhirinovsky, whose right-wing views have engendered alarm

and earned contempt throughout the Western world.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Zhirinovsky had not applied for a visa, and said no decision had been made to keep him out of the country.

"When he submits a request, we will examine it," the spokesman said under customary rules of anonymity.

City hall spokeswoman Michele Debède said Mr. Zhirinovsky had not asked to see Mr. Chirac either. "Mr. Zhirinovsky's visit has to be postponed first," Ms. Debède said. "Then it would depend on many things."

Mr. Zhirinovsky says Europe's borders should be redefined to expand Russia and Germany, at the expense of Central and Eastern European nations — eliminating Romania, for instance. He has suggested Russian nuclear weapons could be used against Germany.

Noting the actions by Bulgaria and Germany, the movement said in a statement that "we hope for a similar decision by the French government."

Mr. Zhirinovsky said he was confident of obtaining a visa to visit France despite the German government's decision to

bar him from making a planned 18-day visit.

"I am a friend of France," he told France-Info, speaking in fluent French. "I have never done anything bad to France. It is impossible to refuse me a visa."

He said his European trip was called off because of "misunderstandings" caused by journalists seeking "shocking and dramatic" statements.

"Journalists are always trying to find something evil in my actions, in the programme of my party," he said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky cancelled a visit to Australia planned for next week, saying he was too busy.

The Zionist Federation of Australia had opposed granting Mr. Zhirinovsky a visa because of his reported comments about Russian Jews.

He has even run into problems in the Netherlands, though he hasn't publicly mused about going there.

Dutch authorities are probing an Amsterdam company which reportedly financed Mr. Zhirinovsky's successful parliamentary campaign with bank-like transactions but with no banking license to do so.

## Row erupts over 'designer babies'

LONDON (R) — A row erupted in Britain Friday over "designer babies" following reports that a black woman is to have a white woman's egg implanted in her to ensure the child is of mixed race. It is the second time in a week that genetic manipulation has prompted protest from doctors, churchmen and politicians after a 59-year-old British woman gave birth to twins on Christmas Day after artificial insemination at a Rome clinic. The latest case involves a man of mixed race and a black woman who are keen the child should resemble its father. The couple are being treated at a pioneering test-tube baby clinic at Bourn Hall, Cambridge.

The woman, unable to produce eggs of her own because of a tumour, has opted to have the eggs of a white donor fertilised by her husband's sperm. In a similar case in Italy, an African woman was implanted with a white woman's eggs and gave birth earlier this year to a white baby, newspapers reported.

The PAC says it will only take its place in the multi-party Transitional Executive Council helping to rule in the election run-up once the question of the armed struggle has been resolved to its satisfaction.

Arch. Tutu described the attack as "a blight on a season of peace and reconciliation."

"I say yet again that we condemn...completely and categorically this dastardly act as we condemn all violence that happens in other parts of the country," Arch. Tutu told reporters.

## Jackson will not answer questions

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The lawyer for a 13-year-old boy suing Michael Jackson for allegedly molesting him says the pop superstar is "stonewalling." Jackson's attorney countered that his counterpart was just whining.

Law and Order Minister Hermin Kriel, describing the attack as barbaric, said, "the sheer blood lust which marked this attack represents the kind of depravity to which perpetrators are prepared to sink...to destabilise the democratic process."

Police blamed that attack on the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the PAC's armed wing.

They must and they will be stopped."

"The Minister of Finance, with his harsh attitude to creditors in industry, must either change his views or not hamper other people in saving the economy," Rossiiskiye Vesti wrote.

If Fyodorov was not prepared to allow new credits to restructure industry and increase Russia's competitiveness, his place should be occupied by a man sharing Geraschenko's views as far as constitutional rights, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara County authorities have been investigating child molestation allegations against Jackson, though no criminal charges have been filed.

Rossiiskiye Vesti said Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, responsible for privatisation, would probably stay as a minister, but this remained unclear.

Reformers say Mr. Geraschenko has failed to crack down on inflation, a charge the former Soviet state banker angrily denies, saying monetarist producers are driving inflation up.

Western economists view Russia's privatisation campaign as the most successful element of reform to date.

Rossiiskiye Vesti said Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, responsible for privatisation, would probably stay as a minister, but this remained unclear.

&lt;p



## Medvedev doubtful for Australian Open

ST. KILDA, Australia (Agencies) Andrei Medvedev faces an anxious New Year after aggravating an old knee injury at the Hopman Cup Friday, perhaps forcing him to miss the Australian Open.

Medvedev, representing the Ukraine along with sister Natalia Medvedeva, hobbled around the court with increasing difficulty as his country was dumped out of the mixed team tournament in the first round by unseeded Austria.

The 19-year-old world number six was beaten 4-6 6-2 6-1 by Alex Antonitsch and hurried away to seek medical advice about the extent of the problem.

"From the second set onwards, the pain was getting worse and worse," said Medvedev, who received treatment for an inflamed knee muscle in Florida before Christmas. "I shall have to check with the doctor."

The Australian Open has already lost several leading attractions, notably Andre Agassi, who has had wrist surgery and Boris Becker who is expecting his first child.

Michael Chang, John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova and Jennifer Capriati have also decided not to compete.

Ukraine, seeded sixth, was looking shaky even before Medvedev stepped on court. His elder sister was beaten 6-7 3-6 by Judith Wiesner in the opening singles, and the pair eventually scratched from the 'dead' doubles rubber to give Austria a 3-0 winning margin.

The organisers experienced a further headache when tournament stand-in Andrew Foster of Britain could not be found in time to replace Medvedev. His coach, Andrew Jarrett, was hastily drafted to partner Clare Wood in an exhibition doubles match against the Austrian pair, who now face Spain in the quarterfinals Monday.

Playets and umpires entered

the world of computer-enhanced tennis Friday but gave only a muted welcome to the new era of high-tech line-judging.

For the first time at a major professional tournament, all line calls at the Hopman Cup mixed team event are being performed by machine instead of humans, a move which some believe could alter the whole tone of the sport.

Entrepreneur Brian Williams pronounced himself "very pleased" with his TEL (tennis electronic lines) system Friday, but leading men Medvedev and Antonitsch were not so sure.

"The machine made three bad calls today," said Medvedev.

"It's not fair to fire all the people. Human beings are better than machines."

Antonitsch felt the system made the game "more boring."

"You feel like you're playing video games ... there's no-one to argue with," he complained.

"Somehow it's part of the game questioning calls. I'll have to start talking to the machine."

From the chair, the innovation was viewed more positively. British umpire Jane Tabor admitted the system, which she operated with hand-held computer, extra concentration.

"There's a lot to think about, but the accuracy is superb. You just have to train yourself to do a few extra things. It is a comfortable feeling that you're not going to get any queried calls."

Tabor conceded there had been teething problems, mostly involving the handset which has to be activated before each point. One of the buttons jammed at one stage and the system was turned off for the final 'dead' doubles after several inadvertent beeps.

Medvedev also did his good-humoured best to sabotage the

whole operation by unplugging the apparatus which organisers had hoped would be given a searching road test by the incomparable John McEnroe.

McEnroe, who once claimed the cyclops service machine recognised him at Wimbledon, is absent through injury but has a worthy replacement in the U.S. team in the shape of Ivan Lendl.

Lendl once blamed his poor form at the Australian Open on "logo skid" from the balls and has long been recognised as a tennis perfectionist. He makes his first appearance Tuesday until then, the beep goes.

Meanwhile Wally Masur, recovered from the bitter disappointment of being dropped from Australia's Davis Cup final team, has set his sights on a top 10 ranking during 1994.

Masur, the top-ranked Australian at No. 21, was omitted from the Australian team beaten 4-1 by Germany in the Davis Cup final in Dusseldorf in early December.

It was a discouraging end to a year that had seen the 30-year-old rise to career-high ranking of 15 and a semifinal at the U.S. Open.

Masur begins 1994 by partnering Nicole Provis on the Australian team that faces Sweden Saturday in the first round of the \$510,000 Hopman Cup and has vowed to put behind him a series of early round defeats late last season.

"In tennis, you can't afford to dwell on the past," he said. "You have to look ahead and even though I only had a three-week break I'm excited by the opportunity to play again."

Despite his lack of power, Masur believes has a mature enough game to mount a challenge for a top 10 place.

"For any player, it doesn't matter whether you are 21 years old or 30, if you are making progress it is very satisfying," he said Friday.

## Australian yacht takes line honours

HOBART (AFP) — Only 10 of the 37 surviving yachts in the 630 nautical mile Sydney-Hobart Race have so far crossed the finish line here, race officials said early Friday.

They added at least 16 yachts would spend New York's Eve at sea with the last not expected to arrive here until late Sunday.

In last year's race, most boats had finished within three and a half days. This year's event began in Sydney at mid-day on Boxing Day.

Organisers described the event, in which Australian yacht Ninety Seven took line honours Thursday, as "the toughest race in the 49-year history of the ocean classic."

One skipper called for tighter safety rules in the race, which he said were not as rigorous as in other competitions. Mountainous seas and fierce winds had battered the fleet, forcing two-thirds of the

fleet to call in Bass Strait.

The Tasman performance

Handicap Division was likely

to be taken by French-Australian entry Wild Thing.

Wild Thing owner and co-

skipper Grant Wharington said

the crew of seven Australians and seven French men worked well together despite some language problems.

"They have very strange names for things, in the end we had sign language very well organised and when someone's face went very red we knew there was a problem."

Wharington said he was worried by the atrocious conditions.

"We concentrated on keeping the boat together so it would not break into pieces," he said.

"We really decided we wanted to nurse the boat but when we saw the other bigger boats had started to pull out ahead of use we decided we could try a little bit harder and we made it."

French co-skipper Lionel Pean described his Australian crew mates as "rough diamonds, they drive their boats

hard, I am more methodical but that gets results."

It was a different story on pocket maxi Bobsled, however.

Declaring he was "very disappointed" at coming fifth, co-

skipper and French Olympic silver medalist Yves Pajot said the boat would have been better placed if its seven Australian crewmen had not "panicked."

"They were afraid the mast was going to fall down," Pajot said. "They wanted to stop racing and we lost about 12 hours before we could convince them that was premature."

"We were leading at one point, after Brindabella (the race favourite) withdrew. We could certainly have done much better than fifth."

Pajot was one of three professional French sailors on board, the other eight being

French military academy students.

Pean, winner of the 1986 Whitbread Round-the-World Race, said he thought the race organisers would have to tighten safety rules.

"The preparation and safety measures were not as rigorous as in some other competitions. After the notorious 1979 fastnet race, the organisers had to change the entry conditions and I think that Sydney will be forced to do the same thing."

Some 15 people died in the 1979 England-Ireland Fastnet Race, and 23 yachts sank. The two yachts which sank in this year's Sydney-Hobart were the first sinkings in the race's history. One skipper was washed overboard and survived after spending more than five hours in the water.

Only two people are believed to have died in the entire history of the race.

cer.

"Early next year I am going to talk to Gullit," Advocaat said last week. Gullit has said he would not play under Advocaat.

While some Dutch players expressed disappointment that Cruyff would not be in charge, Advocaat said he would get on with the job and try to ignore the "Cruyff factor."

"The squad will have problems with (media) rabblerousing than me. I shall have to fight against that. Making comparisons is all part and parcel of the game, but I can live with that," Advocaat told a Dutch newspaper Friday.

"I have complete confidence that we can get excellent results. We have the players to do that."

Advocaat has signed up as coach for the next four years after the finals but will remain under pressure to prove that the talented Dutch can perform without Cruyff at the helm.

## Cruyff shadow may yet loom large over Advocaat

ROTTERDAM (R) — The appointment of Dick Advocaat as Dutch national soccer coach for next year's World Cup final suggests the nation's habit of pushing the self-destruct button may have been broken at last.

Squabbles over squad leadership have dogged one of the world's most exciting sides for most of the major tournaments in the last 20 years.

This propensity for self-destruction has left the Dutch underperforming on the pitch — despite huge potential the honours count is limited to one European Championship.

Advocaat agreed to a request from the Dutch Soccer Union (KNVB) last Thursday to continue in the job after the breakdown of protracted negotiations to persuade former idol Johan Cruyff to take over for the showpiece event in the United States.

Advocaat steered the Netherlands through the qualifying rounds but the KNVB,

several leading players and many fans had hoped Cruyff would lead the squad in the finals.

KNVB Chairman Jos Staatsen said he ended talks with Barcelona coach Cruyff after failing to agree commercial aspects of the contract.

The dispute bore all the sorry hallmarks of previous wranglings and feuding which in the past had put an extra burden on the players in major competitions.

In 1974, Rinus Michels was appointed over the head of coach Fransisco Fadrhonc to lead the Dutch in the World Cup finals in Germany. Ironically, Michels was also then coach of Barcelona.

The talks eventually broke down over demands by Cruyff for one month's salary. Barcenas refused to pay him while he was away, and the right to wear his own brand of sportswear.

Some Dutch newspapers claimed later that Cruyff also demand a 10 per cent share of the KNVB's profit from the World Cup, and refused to

have his picture included in squad photographs.

While few disputed Cruyff's

experience would be an asset

in the United States, there was a strong sympathy vote for

Advocaat as he steered the team through a tough qualification.

Some Dutch newspapers suggested Cruyff was dragging his feet in his talks with the KNVB because he was unsure the Dutch could go all the way and win the World Cup.

"Maybe Cruyff is stalling because he is not sure he can win a prize in America," De Volkskrant wrote in November.

Others firmly backed Cruyff to do the job. "Thanks to the mismanagement of (KNVB Chairman) Staatsen. The orange (Dutch) squad is at the mercy of the second best," soccer magazine Voetball International Raged.

One of Advocaat's first tasks will be to try and persuade Sampdoria striker Ruud Gullit to return to international soccer.

## Jordan's departure leaves void

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — As yet, I haven't made my mind up about the Davis Cup. If I want to play, I will. If I don't then I won't," Stich said.

"I have never had a problem with Boris Becker. He makes his own decisions and he's started to say some things. I just try and concentrate on my sport."

In an era when most players make farewell tours, Jordan never provided supporters a chance to say goodbye.

His Oct. 6 announcement stunned the National Basketball Association (NBA), leaving a still-unfilled void for the title of the league's top team and player.

"I felt it was time to move forward, away from games," Jordan said. "I've reached the made of my career. I just feel I don't have anything else to prove. I don't have the drive right now. The desire is not there."

Jordan had accomplished more by age 30 than most NBA players achieve in a lifetime. He led the Bulls to a third straight NBA title in June. He won seven straight league scoring titles.

He averaged a record 32.3

points a game and was a star for the U.S. Olympic gold medal "Dream Team" in 1992.

"I want to be remembered as a guy who enjoyed the game, played it 110 per cent, always had something to prove and when that challenge was in front of me, stepped forward and proved it," Jordan said.

"My skills are still good. I'm not on the downside of my career. This is the perfect time to walk away."

Jordan's father, James, was killed in rural North Carolina

during the off-season. While

saying his decision to retire came before his father's death, Jordan was clearly faced with mortality as he considered his future.

"You realise how short life

is, how something could end so quickly," Jordan said. "It can be taken away from you at any time."

Jordan's father suggested his son "retire following his first NBA title in 1991, but Michael still had things to prove. Two years later, following two titles and controversies over his gambling, there was little reason to stay and plenty of reason to depart."

"I guess the biggest gratification I can take out of my father not being here is that he saw my last basketball game. That means a lot," Jordan said.

Jordan did not close the door entirely on a comeback, but his hunger for playing the game must return before he will.

"I'm not making this a never issue," Jordan said. "The word 'retire' means you can do anything you want. If I desire to come back and play again, maybe that's what I'll do. Maybe that's the challenge. I will need someday down the road. I'm not going to close that door. I don't believe in never."

Jordan does believe in spending more time with his wife Juanita and their three children.

"I've been very selfish in my career, to try to get to this point and make sure I've achieved all the things I wanted to achieve," Jordan said. "Now it's time to be a little bit unselfish, to try and spend more time with my family, just get back to a normal life."

For the remaining members of the Bulls, normal was over.

"How do you replace a guy

## USED & DUTY FREE VEHICLES WANTED

4 Wheel Drive (land rover discovery, Mitsubishi pajero, Toyota land cruiser) or similar.  
NOT OLDER THAN (1991) Engine 2000/2500 C.C.  
Please Specify Milage & other details. send offers before 10/1/94 to: T.C project | Mr. CIMINO  
p. o. Box (9800) Jebel Webdeh - Amman

## AIRAM GENERAL SERVICES

To house ladies ...  
On the occasion of the new year 1994, we have a special offer for you...

1- Sofa set cleaning  
2- All types of carpet cleaning,  
by modern machines and highly skilled workers , competitive prices .

10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN YOUR SERVICE

Don't hesitate to call us 696072

## Papin targets Marseille return

PARIS (AFP) — Former French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin said Friday he would like to return to Olympique Marseille when his contract with Italian club AC Milan ended in 1995.

Papin, quoted by French sports daily L'Equipe, said: "I will try and see out my contract here, then I'll look for a new challenge either in France or abroad."

"I only feel comfortable at

